

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Budget Summary						FTE Position Summary				
Fund	2010-11 Adjusted Base	Governor		2011-13 Change Over Base Year Doubled		2010-11	Governor		2012-13 Over 2010-11	
		2011-12	2012-13	Amount	%		2011-12	2012-13	Number	%
GPR	\$2,244,500	\$1,573,300	\$2,516,200	- \$399,500	- 8.9%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
FED	2,178,200	2,194,900	2,293,400	131,900	3.0	10.50	8.00	8.00	- 2.50	- 23.8
PR	89,766,800	89,958,200	96,038,800	6,463,400	3.6	981.85	966.60	966.60	- 15.25	- 1.6
SEG	<u>48,536,100</u>	<u>38,977,600</u>	<u>38,967,700</u>	<u>- 19,126,900</u>	- 19.7	<u>120.75</u>	<u>118.00</u>	<u>118.00</u>	<u>- 2.75</u>	- 2.3
TOTAL	\$142,725,600	\$132,704,000	\$139,816,100	- \$12,931,100	- 4.5%	1,113.10	1,092.60	1,092.60	- 20.50	- 1.8%

Budget Change Items

General Agency Provisions

1. STANDARD BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Governor: Provide standard budget adjustments to the base totaling \$68,700 FED, \$3,777,200 PR, and \$759,700 SEG annually for the following: (a) turnover reduction (-\$425,900 PR and -\$82,400 SEG annually); (b) removal of non-continuing elements from the base (-\$400,000 PR and -\$52,800 SEG annually); (c) full funding of continuing salaries and fringe benefits (\$68,200 FED, -\$171,700 PR, and \$847,000 SEG annually); (d) overtime (\$2,492,200 PR annually); (e) night and weekend differential (\$2,280,200 PR annually); (f) full funding of lease costs and directed moves (\$500 FED, \$2,400 PR, and \$47,900 SEG annually); and (g) transfers within the same appropriation. The transfers would include \$1,229,000 PR for costs related to skilled nursing, -\$987,400 PR for domicile operations, and -\$241,600 PR for food services operations to the Veterans Home of Union Grove.

FED	\$137,400
PR	7,554,400
SEG	<u>1,519,400</u>
Total	\$9,211,200

2. INCREASE EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PENSIONS AND HEALTH INSURANCE

Governor: Delete \$4,171,200 annually to reflect fringe benefit cost reductions associated with increased state employee contributions for Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) benefits and health insurance coverage. The reductions would include \$100 GPR, \$22,900 FED, \$3,656,300 PR, and

GPR	- \$200
FED	- 45,800
PR	- 7,312,600
SEG	<u>- 983,800</u>
Total	- \$8,342,400

\$491,900 SEG. The calculation of retirement savings is based on employee WRS contributions equal to 5.8% of salary. Health insurance cost reductions are based on employees paying an average of approximately 12.6% of total premium costs, compared to the current average of approximately 6% of costs.

3. AGENCY BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Governor: Reduce funding by \$72,500 GPR and \$1,547,600 PR annually associated with a 10% reduction to supplies and other non-personnel costs. The reductions would include \$1,493,800 PR annually from the Veterans Homes Operations.

GPR	- \$145,000
PR	- 3,095,200
Total	- \$3,240,200

4. ELIMINATE LONG-TERM VACANCIES

Governor: Delete \$1,152,700 (all funds) and 18.5 (all funds) positions annually to reflect the elimination of long-term vacant positions under the bill. The reductions would include \$23,900 FED and 0.5 FED position, \$877,400 PR and 14.25 PR positions, and \$251,400 SEG and 3.75 SEG position annually. Funding and position reductions are associated with positions that have been vacant for 12 months or more.

	Funding	Positions
FED	- \$47,800	- 0.50
PR	- 1,754,800	- 14.25
SEG	- 502,800	- 3.75
Total	- \$2,305,400	- 18.50

5. TRANSFER STATE APPROVING AGENCY FUNCTIONS

Governor: Delete \$336,000 FED and 3.0 FED positions and \$74,400 SEG and 1.0 SEG position annually related to the transfer of state academic institution and education program approving agency functions for veterans benefits from DVA to the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). Funding would include -\$192,200 FED and -\$78,600 SEG for salary and fringe benefits, -\$78,600 FED and -\$25,800 SEG for fringe benefits, and -\$65,200 FED for supplies and services annually. The segregated position and related salaries and fringe benefits would not be transferred to DSPS.

	Funding	Positions
FED	- \$672,000	- 3.00
SEG	- 148,800	- 1.00
Total	- \$820,800	- 4.00

Currently, DVA operates as the state approval agency through a contract with the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. The state approval agency is responsible for meeting federal requirements for evaluating, approving, and monitoring of academic institutions and programs that are potentially eligible to receive funding from the Montgomery GI Bill. The Governor may designate the following programs as "veteran's education" under the state approval agency functions: (a) on-the job training and apprenticeship training programs at the Department of Workforce Development; (b) on-the-farm training programs at the Wisconsin Technical College System; and (c) funeral directors apprentices of the Funeral Directors Examining Board. These duties would be transferred.

As a technical modification, correct a current reference to the definition of tribal school

(current statutes misnumber the referenced section).

Nonstatutory Provisions. Specify that the assets, liabilities and tangible property of the DVA primarily related to the state approval agency, as determined by the DOA Secretary, would become assets, liabilities and tangible property of DSPS on the effective date of the bill.

Specify that all pending matters of DVA primarily related to the state approval agency, as determined by the DOA Secretary, would become pending matters of DSPS on the effective date of the bill. Materials submitted to, or actions taken by, DVA related to these programs would be considered to have been submitted to, or taken by DSPS.

All contracts entered into by the DVA primarily related to the state approval agency, on the effective date of the bill, would become contracts of DSPS, as determined by the DOA Secretary. The DSPS would be responsible for carrying out the obligations of these contracts unless modified or rescinded by DSPS, to the extent allowed under the contract.

Under the bill, the administrative rules promulgated by the DVA primarily related to the state approval agency, as determined by the DOA Secretary, would remain in effect until the expiration date of the rule or until amended or repealed by DSPS. All orders issued by the DVA primarily related to the state approval agency, as determined by the DOA Secretary, would remain in effect until the end of their effective date or until modified or rescinded by DSPS.

Specify that the DOA Secretary would identify positions to transfer. The transferred individuals would retain their earned rights and status under the state employment relations laws. Any person transferred would not go through a probationary period, if they have already obtained permanent status.

[Bill Sections: 1237 thru 1239, 1244 thru 1248, and 9153(1)]

6. REPAYMENT TO VETERANS TRUST FUND

GPR	\$416,800
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Governor: Provide \$416,800 in 2011-12 for repayment to the veterans trust fund for transfers made from the trust fund to the general fund during the 2009-11 biennium.

Under current law, moneys transferred from the veterans trust fund or used for purposes other than specific DVA-related appropriations, must be repaid by the general fund with an interest rate of 5% per year. In 2009-10 \$203,300 was lapsed from the trust fund to the general fund. In 2010-11, it is anticipated that an additional \$203,300 would be lapsed at the end of the fiscal year.

7. ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY VETERANS

SEG	- \$543,600
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Governor: Reduce the amounts available for assistance to needy veterans by \$271,800 annually.

Currently, the assistance to needy veterans program consists of two distinct services: (a) assistance for health care costs; and (b) subsistence aids. Under the bill, the amounts available for health care costs would be reduced from \$1,069,800 to \$870,000 annually. The amounts available for subsistence aid grants would be reduced from \$172,000 to \$100,000 annually.

Under current law, the health care component can only be used to cover costs related to dental care, hearing aids, and eyeglass costs. The veteran's household may not have liquid assets in excess of \$1,000 without losing eligibility for this program. The subsistence aid portion of the program provides temporary emergency aid to veterans in the event of an illness, injury, or natural disaster that causes a loss of income. The Department may grant subsistence aid to veterans whose loss of income is the result of abuse of alcohol or other drugs if the veteran is participating in an alcohol and other drug abuse treatment program approved by DVA.

8. VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SEG	- \$592,600
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Governor: Delete \$296,300 annually for the veterans assistance program.

The program provides assistance to homeless, incarcerated, and other groups of needy veterans, as designated by DVA. The current DVA rules additionally specify that VAP eligibility extends to veterans with the following status: (a) unemployment or underemployment that limits the veteran's ability to be self-supporting; (b) an affliction with acute or chronic physical or mental health problems that limits the veteran's ability to be self-supporting; and (c) insufficient monthly income and resources to pay for the cost of care provided at an assisted living facility operated at a Veterans Home.

The Department uses regional centers to provide transitional housing to veterans and to assist needy veterans in receiving medical and dental care, educational support and employment services. Services provided include: (a) providing transitional housing; (b) referrals to service providers; (c) financial assistance to veterans who are eligible for residency at a veterans home but lack financial resources; (d) assistance in seeking vocational opportunities; and, as of 2009 Act 28; and (e) providing single occupancy rooms.

All veterans who have served in the U.S. armed forces with other than a dishonorable discharge are eligible to participate in the VAP. There is no state residency requirement for this program.

9. VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RECEIPTS

SEG	\$56,500
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Governor: Provide \$26,500 in 2011-12 and \$30,000 in 2012-13 to reestimate the amount of segregated revenue to be received from private payments at veterans assistance program facilities related to increased receipts for single occupancy rooms.

Under current law, DVA must operate a program to provide assistance to veterans who need services based on homelessness, incarceration, or other services designated by DVA, by rule. The Department may provide assistance in medical care, dental care, education,

employment, and transitional housing. The Department may also charge fees to homeless veterans who use services at veterans assistance centers (federal code specifies that gainfully employed veterans may be charged of up to 30% of their income). The Department may provide and charge for single occupancy rooms as a service of the veterans assistance program.

10. PERSONAL LOAN PROGRAM

SEG	- \$4,200,000
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Governor: Decrease funding by \$2,000,000 annually for amounts available to loan under the agency's Personal Loan Program (PLP). Reduce the amounts available for administration of the program by \$100,000 annually. Base level funding for the PLP includes \$5,000,000 for potential personal loans to veterans and \$150,000 for administration of the program. Under the bill, the amounts available for loans would be reduced to \$3,000,000 annually and the amounts for administration would be reduced to \$50,000 annually.

11. CREATE SEPARATE PROGRAM FOR MUSEUM OPERATIONS

Governor: Create a separate Chapter 20 statutory program for Veterans Museum operations. Under the current statutes, funding for operations of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is placed in the Loans and Aids to Veterans program within Chapter 20 of the statutes. Under the bill, the new program would be entitled "Wisconsin Veterans Museum." The new program would include renumbered appropriations (as modified by other recommendations under the bill) to include: (a) two appropriations for the Operation of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (\$249,200 GPR annually and \$2,067,800 SEG in 2011-12 and \$2,117,400 SEG in 2012-13 and 13.45 SEG positions annually); (b) museum sales (\$205,700 SEG in 2011-12 and \$170,700 SEG in 2012-13); (c) museum facilities (\$52,800 SEG annually); and (d) veterans of World War I museum funding (\$2,500 SEG annually).

In addition, two appropriations that have no specific amounts appropriated would be transferred under the new program. Create a FED-continuing appropriation for federally funded museum acquisitions and operations. Create a SEG-continuing appropriation for the receipt and expenditure of gifts and bequests for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

Delete a statutory reference to an unfunded museum operations appropriation that formerly received funds from Indian gaming revenues. [The tribal gaming funded appropriation had not received funding since 2002-03.] The current SEG-continuing appropriation for acquiring, developing, enlarging and improving facilities would be modified to specify that funding would be provided from this appropriation for non-museum costs. Create an additional appropriation under the museum program for acquiring, developing, enlarging and improving Wisconsin Veterans Museum facilities.

[Bill Sections: 702 thru 711, 746, and 877]

12. MUSEUM STORAGE FACILITY

Governor: Provide \$248,500 and 2.0 project positions in

	Funding	Positions
SEG	\$521,600	2.00

2011-12 and \$273,100 and 2.0 project positions in 2012-13 for agency costs related to moving materials into the Joint Preservation Storage Facility (JPS) in Madison. Funding would include: (a) \$176,500 and 2.0 project positions in 2011-12 and \$201,100 and 2.0 project positions in 2012-13 to prepare manuscripts, collections, and archived material for movement to the JPS; and (b) \$72,000 annually for preparation of the storage facility.

The JPS is a storage facility designed to maintain and preserve the collections of the Department and the State Historical Society. The Department anticipates that the facility will become operational in October, 2013.

13. LIMITED-TERM EMPLOYEES FOR VETERANS MUSEUM

SEG	\$120,600
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Governor: Provide \$60,300 annually for limited-term employees at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. The limited term employees would be hired as a library services assistant and an operational program associate at the museum.

14. MUSEUM EXHIBITS

SEG	\$150,000
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Governor: Provide one-time funding of \$62,500 in 2011-12 and \$87,500 in 2012-13 for temporary exhibits and redevelopment of existing displays. Funding would be provided for: (a) two temporary exhibits on Wisconsin's role in the Civil War as part of the 150th Anniversary of the beginning of the War (\$37,500 annually); and (b) redevelopment of the permanent gallery space at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison and moving the Wisconsin National Guard exhibit that is currently at the Veterans Museum to the Wisconsin National Guard Museum at Volk Field (\$25,000 in 2011-12 and \$50,000 in 2012-13).

15. VETERANS MUSEUM STORE RECEIPTS

SEG	\$109,800
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Governor: Provide \$72,400 in 2011-12 and \$37,400 in 2012-13 for the following improvements to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum store: (a) \$35,000 in 2011-12 as one-time financing including \$15,000 for multimedia guides describing the museum displays and \$20,000 for point of sale equipment (computers, lighting, and cabinetry); and (b) \$37,400 annually for merchandise purchases to be resold at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Base level funding for the SEG-continuing store receipts appropriation is \$133,400 annually. Revenues are generated from the sales of items at the store inside the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

16. VETERANS MUSEUM MASTER LEASE

SEG	\$105,600
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Governor: Provide \$52,800 annually as part of a five-year master lease of repairs at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison. The master lease would cover \$224,800 of one-time costs, including: (a) \$136,800 for eight new smoke detection systems (two new units and six replacement units); (b) \$68,000 for water detections systems in archival storage areas; and (c) \$20,000 for replacement of carpeting that was been damaged by water. The first year and one-

half of funding was provided in the 2009-11 biennium on a one-time basis. This provision would provide two additional years of one-time funding.

17. VETERANS CEMETERY FUNDING

Governor: Provide \$195,300 FED and 1.0 FED position, -\$35,500 PR and -1.0 PR position, and -\$159,800 SEG in 2011-12 and \$171,100 FED and 1.0 FED position, -\$35,500 PR and -1.0 PR position, and -\$135,600 SEG in 2012-13 to reduce veterans burial funding from program and segregated revenues and increase the amounts provided from federal burial allowances.

	Funding	Positions
FED	\$366,400	1.00
PR	- 71,000	- 1.00
SEG	- 295,400	0.00
Total	\$0	0.00

Under current law, revenues for cemetery operations include: (a) \$164,800 FED and 4.0 FED positions annually funded from federal burial allowances; (b) \$231,800 PR and 8.0 PR positions annually funded from fees charged for the burial of veterans' spouses and dependant children; and (c) \$652,600 SEG and 6.0 SEG positions annually funded from the veterans trust fund.

18. CEMETERY FUNDING INCREASE

FED	\$327,100
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Governor: Provide \$104,900 in 2011-12 and \$222,200 in 2012-13 for veteran burial services at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Funding would come from federal burial allowances. Base level funding for the cemetery operations from federal aid appropriation is \$164,800 and 4.0 positions annually.

19. CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

FED	\$66,600
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Governor: Provide one-time funding of \$30,600 in 2011-12 and \$36,000 in 2012-13 for infrastructure, repairs and maintenance to the administration building and grounds of the Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Union Grove. Funding would be provided for the following projects in 2011-12: (a) landscape replacement (\$9,500); (b) tree trimming (\$6,000); (c) repainting of carillon tower (\$8,700); (d) asphalt sealing (\$5,500); and (e) parking lot striping (\$900). Funding would be provided for the following projects in 2012-13: (a) shelving for shop (\$6,000); (b) refurbishing brickwork on front entrance of administration building (\$10,000); and (c) remodeling of work room station (\$20,000).

20. PAYMENTS TO VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

SEG	- \$135,000
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Governor: Delete \$67,500 annually for payments from DVA to veterans' organizations that provide benefit claims services to veterans. Base funding for the payments to veterans organizations appropriation is \$177,500.

Under current law, this program provides grants to any state or national veterans' organization that has maintained a claims service office at the USDVA regional office in

Milwaukee for the purpose of assisting Wisconsin veterans with obtaining federal veteran's benefits. To qualify for the state grant, the veterans' organization must have maintained the office for at least five out of the 10 years preceding the date of application for the grant. Grant amounts are based in the total amount of salaries and travel expenses incurred by a qualifying service organization as follows: (a) for organizations with costs ranging from \$1 to \$2,499, DVA reimburses the entire amount; (b) for organizations with costs ranging from \$2,500 to \$9,999, DVA reimburses \$2,500; (c) for organizations with costs ranging from \$10,000 to \$119,999, DVA reimburses 25% of the costs; and (d) for organizations with costs of at least \$120,000, DVA reimburses \$30,000.

21. PUBLIC INFORMATION FUNDING

SEG	\$100,000
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Governor: Provide \$60,000 in 2011-12 and \$40,000 in 2012-13 to develop and distribute a public information campaign to provide the public with information about DVA's activities and programs. According to the Department, the campaign would include print, radio, internet, social media and public relations components.

22. DOCUMENT IMAGING

SEG	\$61,000
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Governor: Provide \$40,000 in 2011-12 and \$21,000 in 2012-13 for increased document imaging costs for the following: (a) \$20,000 in 2011-12 and \$21,000 in 2012-13 for costs to maintain contracts for software licenses and maintenance of equipment; and (b) one-time funding of \$20,000 in 2011-12 for a consultant to upgrade the content management software. Funding would be split between the veterans trust fund (\$30,400 in 2011-12 and \$16,000 in 2012-13) and the mortgage loan repayment fund (\$9,600 in 2011-12 and \$5,000 in 2012-13).

23. TELEMEDICINE COUNSELING SERVICES

GPR	\$15,000
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Governor: Provide \$7,900 in 2011-12 and \$7,100 in 2012-13 for post-traumatic stress disorder and other counseling assistance in connection with assistance provided at the veterans assistance centers. The Department indicates that this funding would extend the service agreements with nine facilities that allow veterans to receive counseling services via video conferencing.

Veterans Homes

1. VETERANS HOME AT CHIPPEWA FALLS

PR	\$6,995,300
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Governor: Provide \$414,900 in 2011-12 and \$6,580,400 in 2012-13 to fund staffing,

overtime, night and weekend differentials, energy, supplies, and start-up costs for the new 72-bed nursing facility at the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls, which is scheduled to open in November, 2012.

Staffing. Provide \$284,200 in 2011-12 and \$4,880,900 in 2012-13 to fund the equivalent of 35.0 positions in 2011-12 and 91.5 positions in 2012-13 to operate the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls. DVA would use this funding to contract for the operation of this facility.

Supplies and Start-up Costs. Provide \$114,900 in 2011-12 and \$1,310,500 in 2012-13 to fund supplies and one-time start-up costs. DVA estimates that start-up costs for supplies and services, such as textiles, small wares, flatware, and dishes, will equal one-twelfth of the projected annual cost of these items.

Overtime, Night, and Weekend Differential Personnel Costs. Provide \$188,300 in 2012-13 to fund the overtime costs for contracted staff overtime (\$45,700 in 2012-13) and higher wages paid to staff working night and weekend shifts (\$142,600 in 2012-13).

Energy Costs. Provide \$15,800 in 2011-12 and \$200,700 in 2012-13 to fund projected energy costs for the new Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls.

Statutory Changes. Create a gifts and bequests appropriation for the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls, which would enable DVA to expend all moneys it receives from gifts and bequests for the purposes for which the money was given.

Authorize DVA to enter into an agreement with a private entity to operate the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls and perform such management and care using personnel employed by the private entity. Exempt this agreement from a provision requiring state departments to contract for services which can be performed more economically or efficiently through the contract and that requires state departments to prescribe, in rule, uniform procedures for determining whether services are appropriate for contracting. Under current law, DVA may employ state personnel to manage and operate the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls.

Authorize the Legislative Audit Bureau to perform, in addition to any other Veterans Home audits required by statute, one or more financial audits of the operation of the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls by any private entity with which DVA enters into an agreement for management and operation of the home. Specify that the audits would be performed at such time as directed by the Governor or Legislature.

[Bill Sections: 64, 234, 699 thru 701, 1249 thru 1269, and 2665]

2. LICENSED BED ASSESSMENT

PR	\$3,725,000
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Governor: Provide \$1,862,500 annually to fund monthly nursing home bed assessments that DVA will be required to pay, beginning in July, 2011, under current law.

2009 Act 28 exempted DVA from paying the assessment in the 2009-11 biennium and reduced DVA's budget by \$1,513,900 in 2009-10 and by \$1,715,700 in 2010-11 to reflect that DVA would not need to make these payments to the Department of Health Services (DHS) in the

2009-11 biennium. In addition, Act 28 increased GPR funding for MA benefits by corresponding amounts to replace the assessment revenue DHS did not collect from DVA in the current biennium.

All assessment revenue paid by nursing homes, including the nursing homes operated by DVA, is deposited to the medical assistance (MA) trust fund to support MA benefits costs. DVA is required to establish private pay rates at its nursing homes that are based on the actual cost of care the homes provide. These costs include DVA's cost of paying the assessment. DVA estimates that it would need to increase private pay rates at the homes by approximately \$2,200 annually to recover the costs of paying the assessment. However, if the DVA nursing homes were to remain exempt from paying the assessment, revenue to the MA trust fund would decrease by an estimated \$3,725,000 in the 2011-13 biennium, which would result in a need to replace these segregated revenues with a corresponding amount of GPR.

3. RESTORE TURNOVER REDUCTION

PR	\$851,800
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Governor: Provide \$425,900 annually to restore funding that would be deleted as a standard budget adjustment for turnover at the nursing home at King (\$335,700 annually), the nursing home at Union Grove (\$65,200 annually), and the assisted living facilities at Union Grove (\$25,000 annually).

Under the DOA 2011-13 budget instructions, agencies are required to reduce, by 3%, adjusted base funding for permanent salaries for all appropriations that fund more than 50 permanent positions to reflect projected savings resulting from temporary staff vacancies. The DVA standard budget adjustment reduces these three appropriations by 1%, rather than 3% in each year. DVA indicates that the agency does not save money when direct care positions are on leave, in training, or become vacant, since the hours that would have been worked by these employees are worked by other staff who work overtime, by limited term employees, or by contracted workers. This item would restore the 1% reduction that would be deleted under the standard budget adjustment, so that no turnover reduction would be applied to DVA's health care facilities.

4. RESTORE ONE-TIME FINANCING FOR KING MASTER LEASE PAYMENTS

PR	\$599,100
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Governor: Provide \$371,100 in 2011-12 and \$228,000 in 2012-13 to maintain one-time funding DVA currently uses to support master lease payments for new furniture DVA purchased for the Veterans Home at King in the 2009-11 biennium.

2009 Wisconsin Act 28 provided one-time funding of \$200,000 in 2009-10 and \$400,000 in 2010-11 to fund the purchase of new furniture for the Veterans Home at King under a master lease agreement. Because funding for this purpose was budgeted in Act 28 as one-time funding, base funding for these payments (\$400,000 annually) would be deleted under standard budget adjustments ("removal of one-time funding"). This item would provide funding for DVA to continue to make these master lease payments in the 2011-13 biennium.

5. DOCUMENT IMAGING SYSTEM - KING

PR	\$97,400
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Governor: Provide \$63,700 in 2011-12 and \$33,700 in 2012-13 to implement a document imaging system for the finance department at the Veterans Home at King. Of the funding that would be provided, \$60,300 in 2011-12 and \$26,000 in 2012-13 would be provided as one-time funding. The imaging system would be used to scan and store electronic versions of veterans' bank statements, stock valuations, life insurance valuations, power of attorney and guardianship documents, explanations of benefits, and income documentation from the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and private pension funds. The imaging system is intended to decrease time associated with filing and retrieving paper documents and reduce physical storage space needed to store them.

6. ESTABLISH GIFTS AND BEQUEST BUDGET FOR UNION GROVE VETERANS HOME

PR	\$50,000
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Governor: Establish a gifts and bequests budget for the State Veterans Home at Union Grove, and estimate that \$25,000 would be expended annually from these sources to provide services at the facility. Currently, DVA is authorized to expend all moneys it receives from gifts and bequests for the operation of the veterans homes. Although funding from this source has been budgeted to support activities at the Veterans Home at King (\$214,700 annually), no budget has been established for these funds for the Veterans Home at Union Grove.

7. MAINTENANCE FOR WISCONSIN VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

PR	\$66,500
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Governor: Provide \$28,500 in 2011-12 and \$38,000 in 2012-13 to fund contracted maintenance services at the Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery (CWVMC) at King. Currently, building and grounds staff at the Veterans Home at King are responsible for mowing, trimming, pruning, plowing, and landscaping 14 acres of burial fields at CWVMC. DVA uses funding from the estate of decedents or funding for Veterans Home institutional operations to pay for grounds keeping at the cemetery. This item would provide funding for DVA to contract for these services.

8. TRANSFERS TO THE VETERANS TRUST FUND

Governor: Authorize DVA to transfer all or part of the unencumbered balance in any of the following Veterans Home program revenue appropriations to the veterans trust fund on June 30 of each fiscal year: (a) the home exchange and work therapy program; (b) Veterans Home cemetery operations; (c) institutional operations; (d) gifts and bequests; (e) gifts and grants intended for geriatric evaluations, research, and education programs; (f) rental fees from state-owned housing at the Veterans Homes; and (g) revenue from geriatric programs.

In addition, delete an obsolete provision that authorized DVA to transfer up to \$7.0 million in surplus PR balances from the Veterans Homes to the veterans trust fund in the 2007-

09 biennium with the approval of the Joint Committee on Finance under a 14-day passive review process.

[Bill Sections: 698, 1242, and 1243]

9. TRANSFER GERIATRIC PROGRAM BUDGET AND POSITION AUTHORITY

Governor: Transfer \$199,900 annually and 2.0 positions, beginning in 2011-12, from a program revenue (PR) appropriation that was created to fund DVA's geriatric evaluation, research and education program, to DVA's PR appropriation that supports its general institutional operations.

Prior to 2007, the former medical director at the Veterans Home at King conducted a geriatric research program with four 0.5 nurse positions. The program was funded with revenue from program receipts in an appropriation created for this purpose, separate from the agency's general institutional operations appropriations for the DVA facilities. After research ended in 2007, when the former medical director retired, the four 0.5 nurse positions were reassigned to provide nursing care for units at King, but have been funded under the geriatric program receipts appropriation.

This item would transfer funding for these positions to the institutional operations appropriation for the Veterans Home at King to reflect the work they are currently performing. The bill would retain the geriatric program's appropriation, but no funding would be budgeted for the program.

10. DEBT SERVICE REESTIMATE

Governor: Reduce funding by \$7,513,900 (\$374,800 GPR, -\$660,600 PR, and -\$7,228,100 SEG) in 2011-12 and by \$7,541,700 (\$281,500 GPR, -\$581,900 PR, and -\$7,241,300 SEG) in 2012-13 to reflect the current law reestimate of debt service payments for the Veterans Homes.

GPR	\$656,300
PR	- 1,242,500
SEG	- 14,469,400
Total	- \$15,055,600

11. GPR DEBT RESTRUCTURING -- DEBT SERVICE

GPR	- \$1,342,400
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Governor: Reduce funding by \$1,398,100 in 2011-12 and increase funding by \$55,700 in 2012-13 to reflect the changes in estimated GPR debt service costs associated with the proposed restructuring of general obligation bond and commercial paper GPR principal amounts that would otherwise be paid off in 2011-12. Under the bill, the state would issue refunding bonds to restructure a portion of its outstanding obligation GPR principal debt and would rollover the principal due on its outstanding commercial paper in 2011-12. (See "Building Commission" for additional information regarding this provision.) The increase in debt service for 2012-13 is associated with the initial interest amount due on the additional debt issued to replace the restructured 2011-12 principal amounts.